The Grasshopper and the Ant

A Georgian Fairytale

MINI PROGRESS & MINI RADUGA

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Illustrations by Gregory Filippovsky

Translation into English by Lara Spurr (Durham, England)

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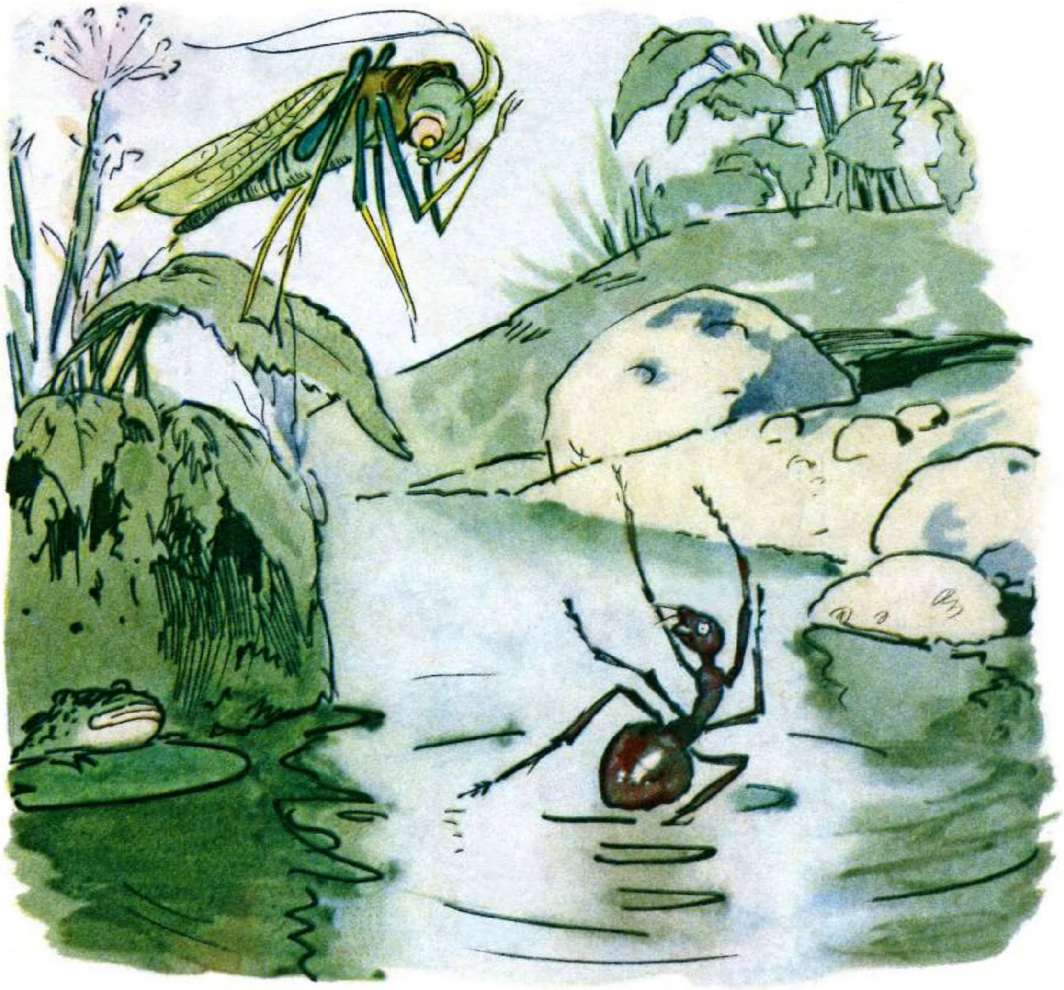


The grasshopper and the ant became friends, became brothers, and went out on a journey together.
They came to a stream. The grasshopper said to the ant:
“I'll jump over. And you, brother ant?”
“I'll jump over too!” said the ant.
The grasshopper hopped - and jumped to the other side, and the ant jumped - and fell into the water!
The water began to carry away the poor ant!
The ant began to call to the grasshopper:
“Brother grasshopper, help, get me out of the water!”

The grasshopper went jump, jump! He leaped up to the pig and began to ask:
“Pig, give me some of your bristles! I’ll weave a rope out of them, throw the rope into the water – then I can pull out my brother ant!”
The pig said:
“Feed me acorns, then take as many bristles as you like.”

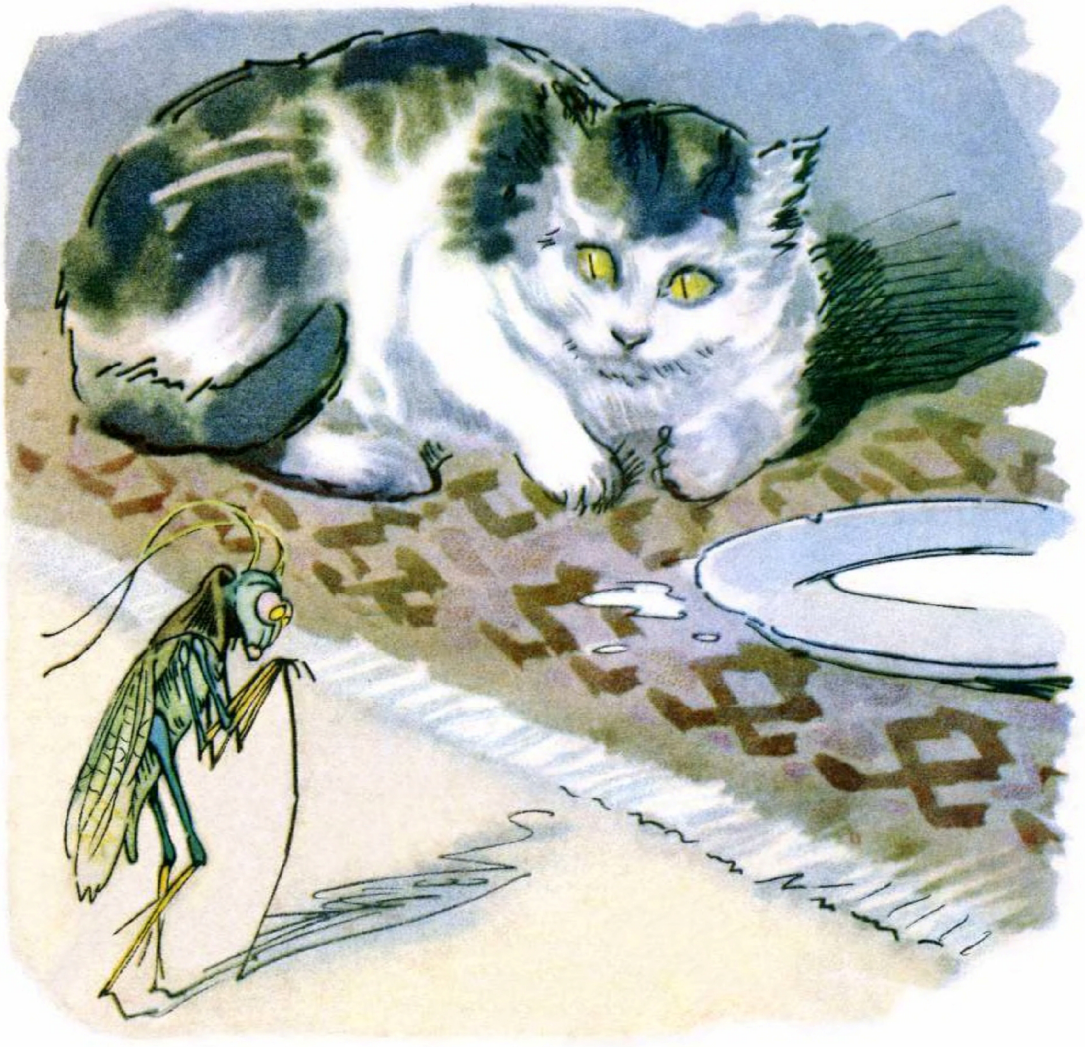
The grasshopper went jump, jump! He leaped up to the oak tree and asked:
“Oak tree, oak tree, give me acorns! I’ll take the acorns to the pig, the pig will give bristles, I'll weave a rope, throw it into the water - then I can pull out my brother ant!”
The oak tree answered:
“The raven sits on me, croaks, and doesn’t give me any peace. Tell him to leave me alone, then I’ll give you some acorns.”

The grasshopper went jump, jump! He leaped up to the raven and asked:
“Raven, raven, leave the oak tree alone! The oak tree will give me acorns, I’ll take the acorns to the pig, the pig will give bristles, I’ll weave a rope, throw it into the water - then I can pull out my brother ant!”
The raven said:
“Bring me a fresh egg, then I’ll leave the oak tree.”

The grasshopper went jump, jump! He leaped up to a hen and asked:
“Hen, hen, give me an egg! I’ll take the egg to the raven, the raven will leave the oak tree, the oak tree will give acorns, I’ll take the acorns to the pig, the pig will give bristles, I’ll weave a rope, throw it into the water - then I can pull out my brother ant!”
The hen said:
“Feed me grains, then I’ll give you an egg.”

The grasshopper went jump, jump! He leaped up to the barn:
“Barn, barn, give me grains! I’ll take the grains to the hen, the hen will give an egg, I’ll take the egg to the raven, the raven will leave the oak tree, the oak tree will give acorns, I’ll take the acorns to the pig, the pig will give bristles, I'll weave a rope, throw it into the water - then I can pull out my brother ant!”
The barn said:
“The mice have overcome me—they are nibbling and gnawing at me from all sides. Tell them not to chew me, then I’ll give you grains!”

The grasshopper went jump, jump! He leaped up to the mouse:
“Mouse, mouse, leave the barn alone! The barn will give me grains, I’ll take the grains to the hen, the hen will give an egg, I’ll take the egg to the raven, the raven will leave the oak tree, the oak tree will give acorns, I’ll take the acorns to the pig, the pig will give bristles, I’ll weave a rope, throw it into the water - then I can pull out my brother ant!”
The mouse said:
“Tell the cat not to catch me, then I won’t nibble the barn.”



The grasshopper went jump, jump! He leaped up to the cat:
“Cat, cat, don’t chase the mouse! The mouse will not nibble the barn, the barn will give me grains, I will take the grains to the hen, the hen will give an egg, I will take the egg to the raven, the raven will leave the oak tree, the oak tree will give acorns, I will take the acorns to the pig, the pig will give bristles, I will weave a rope, throw it in the water - then I can pull out my brother ant!”
The cat said:
“Bring me some milk, then I won’t catch the mouse.”

The grasshopper went jump, jump! He leaped up to the cow:
“Cow, cow, give me milk! I’ll take the milk to the cat, the cat won’t chase the mouse, the mouse will leave the barn, the barn will give me grains, I’ll take the grains to the hen, the hen will give an egg, I’ll take the egg to the raven, the raven will leave the oak tree, the oak tree will give me acorns, I’ll take the acorns to the pig, the pig will give bristles, I’ll weave a rope, throw it into the water – then I can pull out my brother ant!”
The cow said:
“Bring me some grass, then I'll give you milk.”

The grasshopper went jump, jump! He leaped into a field, picked grass and brought it to the cow. The cow gave him milk.

The grasshopper brought milk and gave it to the cat - the cat did not chase the mouse. The mouse stopped his gnawing and left the barn - the barn gave some grains. The grasshopper took the grains to the hen - the hen gave an egg. He took the egg to the raven - the raven flew away behind the oak tree. The oak gave acorns - the grasshopper took the acorns to the pig. The pig gave bristles - the grasshopper wove a long rope from the bristles, attached a stem of grass to it and threw it into the water.

“Hold on, brother ant!” he called out.

The ant grabbed the stem, the grasshopper pulled the rope and pulled the ant ashore.

They rested a while to recover themselves, and then journeyed on.

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